

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 00051 071906Z

43

ACTION ACDA-10

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9483

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 0051

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: SPC DISCUSSION JANUARY 6 ON EASTERN FREEZE

PROPOSAL

REF: (A) USNATO 6774 (B) BONN 208 (C) USNATO 7075

1. SPC DISCUSSED EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL ON JANUARY 6.

2. FRG REP (HOYNCK) SAID HE HAD NO NEW INSTRUCTIONS ON THE MATTER. HOWEVER HE KNEW THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WERE SEEKING WAYS, WITHOUT REJECTING THE EASTERN PROPOSAL OR OFFERING A FORMAL COUNTER-PROPOSAL, TO USE THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL TO DRAW THE EAST INTO A DISCUSSION OF DATA AND OTHER ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE ALLIES. IN CORRIDOR DISCUSSION AFTER THE MEETING, FRG REP INFORMED MISSION OFFICER THAT BONN WILL PROBABLY NOW AWAIT U.S. VIEWS ON THE DEFINITIVE ALLIED REACTION TO THE EASTERN PROPOSAL BEFORE FURTHER DEVELOPING FRG VIEWS IN

SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 00051 071906Z

THE SPC. FRG REP TOLD MISSION OFFICER THAT BONN IS "VERY FLEXIBLE" ON THE SUBJECT, ALTHOUGH HE KNEW THAT BONN STILL WOULD NOT LIKE TO REJECT THE EASTERN PROPOSAL OUTRIGHT. (COMMENT: FRG INTERVENTION DOES NOT APPEAR TO REPRESENT A CHANGE FROM FRG POSITION

PRIOR TO THE NATO CHRISTMAS RECESS, WHEN BONN FAVERED PRESENTING A COUNTER-REACTION WHICH WOULD SEEK TO INTRODUCE WESTERN OBJECTIVES INTO DISCUSSION OF EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL, BUT NOT IN THE FORMAL WAY PROPOSED BY THE UK (E.G. REF A, PARA 3). BONN'S REF B, PARA 2 ALSO INDICATES NO CHANGE IN BASIC FRG POSITION. END COMMENT).

3. BELGIAN REP (WILLOT) SAID HE HAD NO NEW INSTRUCTIONS, AND SPOKE ON A PERSONAL BASIS. HE SAID THE ALLIES NEEDED TO GET RID OF THE EASTERN PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO EASY WAY OF DOING THIS. HE SAID IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO REJECT THE EASTERN PROPOSAL FOR PUBLIC OPINION REASONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, NOT REJECTING THE EASTERN FREEZE RISKED THAT THE ALLIES WOULD END UP "PLAYING THE SOVIET TACTICAL GAME". THE ALLIES COULD TRY TO USE THE EASTERN PROPOSAL TO DRAW THE EAST INTO A DISCUSSION OF DATA AND SIMILAR ISSUES (NOTE: BELGIAN REP WAS CLEARLY REFERRING TO THE FRG INTERVENTION). HOWEVER BELGIAN REP SAID HE DOUBTED THAT IT WOULD BE THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD LEAD TO ALLIED AGREEMENT WITH THE PACT ON ISSUES THE ALLIES HAVE PRESSED UNSUCCESSFULLY FOR OVER A YEAR. BELGIAN REP CITED, AS ONE THEORETICAL OPTION, A UNILATERAL DECLARATION (AWAY FROM VIENNA) THAT THE ALLIES WERE NOT GOING TO INCREASE FORCE LEVELS WHILE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS WERE IN PROGRESS, I.E., THAT NO ONE HAS PLANS TO INCREASE. (COMMENT. THIS WOULD OF COURSE GIVE THE PACT UNILATERALLY A NON-INCREASE COMMITMENT UNRELATED TO OUR REDUCTIONS OBJECTIVES. BELGIAN REP APPEARED TO CONSIDER THIS OPTION AS ONLY THEORETICAL. END COMMENT).

4. NEXT SPC DISCUSSION ON DEFINITIVE ALLIED REACTION TO EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL WILL TAKE PLACE MONDAY, JANUARY 13.

5. MISSION HAS LEARNED FROM DUTCH DELEGATION THAT THE NETHERLANDS WILL HOLD A HIGH LEVEL REVIEW OF ITS MBFR POSITION, INCLUDING THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 9.

SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 00051 071906Z

6. ACTION REQUESTED. WASHINGTON GUIDANCE, AS REQUESTED IN PARAS 3 AND 4 OF REF C, IF POSSIBLE IN TIME FOR SPC MEETING MONDAY, JANUARY 13.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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